future to discuss the bilateral problems and also to establish better ties between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) and (b) Pursuant to the meeting of the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan, the Foreign Secretaries of the two countries met in Islamabad from 18 to 20 December, 1990 and agreed, *inter-alia*, to resume discussions on the boundary in the Sir Creek Area and on the Tulbul Navigation Project; and to convene the Sub-Commissions of the India-Pakistan Joint Commission at an appropriate time.

As a follow-up, the Instruments of Ratification of the Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear Installations and facilities were exchanged on 27 January, 1991; and regular weekly telephonic contact was established between the Directors General of Military Operations of the two countries.

Foreign Secretaries will meet again at mutually convenient dates. This would be preceded by a meeting of the experts to finalise the Agreement on Prevention of Airspace Violation by Military Aircraft and Agreement on Advance Notice of Military Exercises and Manoeuvres.

Damage to life and property of Indians In Iraq and Saudi Arabia

444. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any damage to life and property of Indians living in Iraq and Saudi Arabia during the recent Gulf war; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to safeguard the life and property of Indians in the Gulf?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) There is only one confirmed report of death of an Indian in Iraq. There is also a confirmed report of the destruction of the house of an Indian engineer in Saudi Arabia.

(b) Indian Missions have taken all possible measures, in cooperation with the governments of their accreditation, to safeguard the life and property of Indians in the Gulf.

Bandh in Pakistan in support of secessionists of Kashmir

445. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the Government sponsored bandh in Pakistan on 5th February, 1991 called by the Prime Minister of that country in support of the scessionist elements of JKLF; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto and whether any protest has been lodged with the Government of Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) The Prime Minister of Pakistan had given a call for observance of a general strike on 5 February, 1991, to express "solidarity with the people of Kashmir".

(b) Government feel that such actions are in violation of the Simla Agreement and not conducive to the establishment of good neighbourly relations.

Refuelling facilities to US Air Force planes at Indian Airports

446. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have permitted refuelling facilities to U.S. Air Force planes at Indian Airports;

(b) if so, what was the number of such planes during the period from 16th January to 15th February, 1991; and

(c) whether Government have received any protest from the Government of Iraq